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SECURITY INFORMATION

10 September 1952

Discussion on the Formulation of a National Psychological
Strategy toward the East German National Army

Summary: In June of this year intelligence sources indicated that East German authorities were planning to develop a "national army" as a counterbalance to the prospective West German military contribution to the European Defense Force.

In July at the SED Party Congress formal announcement was made that a "national German army" would be organized in East Germany. There have, as yet, been no indications as to whether this military force will be organized on a volunteer or conscription basis. It is likely that this army will be recruited on a "volunteer" basis.

On July 25, HICOG requested policy guidance from State as to whether it should encourage defection of East German youths of military age. At the time there were two opposing German views: the Federal Government tentatively favored encouragement of mass defection; while the Socialist Party Ostburo believed that greater advantage would result if East German youth remained where they were and unenthusiastically complied with conscription. HICOG (Bonn) considered it inadvisable to encourage mass defection.

At the PSB Representatives meeting, 20 August 1952, Mr. Dulles noted that there was a lack of factual data on which to base a psychological strategy in this matter. It was agreed that CIA and the Department of Defense would cable field representatives for pertinent information.

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CIA cable, 4 September 1952, [REDACTED] states that the total defection figure for the months of June and July was 33,000 (10,553 males 18 to 45 years old). It estimated that the Federal Republic was capable of absorbing these escapees. It would not encourage further defection until the West was able to handle increased numbers of defectors.

Cable dated August 15, [REDACTED] comes out unequivocally in favor of mass defection now on the basis that the Soviets will have sealed the borders in six months time, thus preventing further escape.

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Cable from [REDACTED] to State dated 29 August disagrees with HICOG [REDACTED]'s analysis. It states that Federal Republic officials are "entirely negative" in their attitude toward increasing the flow of young defectors. It states these "'material' considerations have to form the basis of our policy and psychological approach has to adjust to a given situation."

The U. S. policy statement directly involved is NSC 86/1, which restricts our encouragement of defectors to key nationals of the satellite countries, while permitting all-out ^{encouragement} ~~enthusiasm~~ of Soviet defections.

It is our understanding that the Director will recommend that a representative be sent to the field to survey this situation.